

# UCFV conserves, documents heritage of Canada's oldest Sikh Temple

**A**S THE newly restored Sikh Gurudwara (temple) in Abbotsford opened this past weekend as a national historic site, its storied past was officially entrusted to the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies at the University College of the Fraser Valley.

The Khalsa Diwan Society of Abbotsford has engaged the centre to document, record, write, and present the 100-year history of Indian pioneers within the context of the Fraser Valley, the Lower Mainland, and British Columbia as a whole.

The results of the four-year project would be delivered in time for the 2011 celebrations to mark the centennial of the temple.

"We are pleased to pledge support for this project," said Gurdarshan Singh Sandhu, president of Khalsa Diwan Society in Abbotsford. "Our 100-year ancestry is full of proud moments, momentous achievements, and what once seemed like insurmountable

odds. We managed to come through it all and now we want to document it for our future generations."

"We are honoured that the local Indo-Canadian community trusts us to preserve and share the heritage of this national treasure," said Satwinder Bains, director of the Centre for Canada-India Studies at UCFV.

"The project will provide all Canadians with an avenue to learn about the rich traditions and history of this important site and community."



**BAINS**

The Abbotsford Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has the third-largest Indo-Canadian population in Canada and is the most ethnically diverse in the nation.

For more information about the project, contact Satwinder Bains, director of the Centre for Canada-India Studies at UCFV, at 1-888-504-7441 (local 4547) or e-mail: [satwinder.bains@ucfv.ca](mailto:satwinder.bains@ucfv.ca)